Cathedral façade project is ‘Mother Church extending her arms to all of her daughter churches’

Laura Keener  
Editor

The “Speaking for Centuries: Completing the Façade of the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption” campaign will culminate with a blessing and dedication this June. After two years of planning, fundraising, crafting and installing, Bishop Camillus Maes’ vision for the façade of Covington’s cathedral was realized, April 22, with the installation of a statue of St. Pope Pius X — the last of 24 statues. (See related article on page 8, “Reaching back into history completing Bishop Maes’ Cathedral façade vision.”)

“— When we talked about bringing Bishop Maes back to the Cathedral we thought how great it would be if we could complete the façade of the Cathedral since he definitely wanted to do it, but wasn’t able to,” said Bishop Roger Foys in an interview about the completion of the façade. The blessing and dedication is scheduled for June 6, 2 p.m. While plans remain to be finalized, the dedication is expected to be celebrated along with Vespers outside of the Cathedral allowing those in attendance the best vantage point for the blessing. The dedication is the part of the project Bishop Foys said he is most excited.

“What I hope is that it will generate enthusiasm in the people of the diocese to come to the Mother Church and to appreciate the Mother Church for what it is,” Bishop Foys said.

The façade project includes the addition of 24 statues as well as tympana above the right and left portal doors. The statues and tympanum are crafted from Bedford limestone from the Indiana Limestone Co., the same quarry the cathedral façade stone was taken from over a century ago. When first removed from their crates, the statues were gleaming white. Only a few days after installation each statue transited to the color and character of the Cathedral Basilica, taking their place alongside the central portal’s Madonna and Child statue sculpted by Clement J. Barnhorn over a century ago.

“Barnhorn’s Madonna and Child statue was carefully studied as the basis for design and style of the new niche statues,” said Father Jordan Hainsey, who along with Father Joseph Shelton, led the project from design to installation. “Barnhorn’s attention to purity of line and movement work to create visual cohesion among the new statuary.”

Neilson Carlin, a world-renowned artist specializing in sacred and devotional art, was commissioned in 2019 to design the statues and tympanum bas-reliefs. Mr. Carlin, Father Hainsey and Father Shelton worked with St. Jude Liturgical Arts Studio in facilitating the sculptures, which begins with a sketch from which a full-size model is sculpted in clay that is finally hand carved from Indiana limestone. (See related article on page 6, “Imagining the timeless St. Joseph — from sketch, to clay, to stone.”)

“There is a certain amount of interpretation in actually carving the statues,” said Father Hainsey. “The artist can only do so much in two-dimensional form, the sculptor needs to interpret those sketches and give them volume and weight.”

Masons from Hummel Restoration installed the statues in their niches and secured the tympana over the portal doors, a process which took several weeks. Sometimes, an entire day of work resulted in the installation of a single statue — indicative of the care and attention the unique and historical project demanded.

Four three-quarter round statues have been attached to the Cathedral’s front buttresses, filling the upper niches that flank each portal. These statues depict the patrons of the Diocese of Covington — St. Thomas More, patron of Thomas More University; St. Paul the Apostle, patron of the Diocese of Covington; St. Peter the Apostle and St. Elizabeth of Hungary, patroness of St. Elizabeth Medical Center.

Funding for the façade project received a major shot in the arm from St. Elizabeth Medical Center. Likewise, a lead gift was made by Thomas More University Donations from parishes, priests and individ-

(Continued on page 20)
Celebrating Eucharist calls parishes to be loving, caring communities
Laura Keener
Editor

May is Mary’s month and is also a time when the Church celebrates the first Holy Communions of some of its youngest members. On the first weekend of May Bishop Roger Foys celebrated the first Holy Communions of two parishioners of St. Mary’s Parish at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption. Correspondent Jack Bertoli, (pictured bottom right) son of John and April Bertoli, celebrated his First Communion Saturday, May 1 and Carter Anderson, (pictured far right) son of Jeffrey and Suzanne Anderson, received his First Communion Sunday, May 2. Carter also had the honor of crowning Mary at the Sunday morning Mass.

"Crowning Mary is a sign of our devotion," Bishop Foys said in his homily. In the Gospel reading for the fifth Sunday of Easter, Jesus speaks to his apostles on how they are connected to him and how he will nourish and sustain them. “I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)

"Because we are connected to the vine we are not only sustained but we thrive," said Bishop Foys. "We get our sustenance from the vine.”

Bishop Foys said that there are three ways to stay connected to Jesus — through prayer, the sacraments and a community of believers.

"Prayer is talking to and listening to the Lord. We stay connected to the vine through prayer," he said. Receiving the sacraments, especially frequently receiving the sacraments of reconciliation and the Eucharist are essential, Bishop Foys said.

"The sacrament of the Eucharist by which we are really and truly nourished by real food for the journey. We take the Lord himself inside of us through the precious body and blood. He becomes one with us," he said.

The celebration of the Eucharist, Bishop Foys said, calls parishes to be not only places of worship but also loving and caring communities.

"The Lord welcomes us at the Eucharistic celebration in a community of believers, which is why our parish communities need to be welcoming communities — need to be loving and caring," Bishop Foys said. "It is not enough to talk about love in our speech, we need to exemplify that love in our lives. As the Lord loves us we must love each other. The parish church should always be a loving place.

"The Lord is the vine we are the branches, we stay connected to him in our conversations with him in prayer and especially with the sacraments, most especially the sacrament of the Eucharist.”

Imaging the timeless St. Joseph — from sketch, to clay, to stone
Father Jordan Hainsey
Messenger Contributor

Preserved in the Holy Land at Nazareth is what is held to be the house-workshop of St. Joseph. Underneath the modern church constructed in 1914 are the remains of a Crusader church and baptistery built around the ancient house and cave structure. Here, early Christians would retreat to the cave and pray, emerging later to be baptized and fully initiated into the Church. For them it was a pilgrimage from death to sin to new life in Christ. And, just as Joseph’s house formed a foundation for the 1914 church, so too does Joseph give foundation to the Universal Church. Joseph is the protector and timeless intercessor for the faithful. This was true for the early Church and it remains true for us today.

Every statue in the façade of the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption is drawn from hagiographical sources and Christian iconography with some bearing the resemblance of more contemporary figures. In doing so, they remind us that we are not much different from the saints — many had broken relationships and friendships, unfulfilled dreams, and pain throughout life. They all however found solace and joy in a life anchored in Christ. Saints are icons — those who image God to us. The statue of St. Joseph is central to the façade schema. He is to the center portal closest to the Virgin Mary and Christ Child.

Every statue in the façade of the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption followed the same design process — sketches from the façade artist, a full-size model sculpted in clay, and the final sculpture hand carved from Indiana limestone. From their clothing to what they hold, each statue is meant to be a little catechesis. A crozier may point to the fact that the saint was a bishop and shepherd to God’s people. A crown of thorns may symbolize that the saint bore the wounds of Christ, teaching us that suffering has redemption and meaning.

The facades of the saints are an important feature in the Cathedral Basilica’s statuary. The faces of the saints are an important feature in the Cathedral Basilica’s statuary. The faces of the saints are an important feature in the Cathedral Basilica’s statuary. The faces of the saints are an important feature in the Cathedral Basilica’s statuary. They are drawn from hagiographical sources and Christian iconography with some bearing the resemblance of more contemporary figures. In doing so, they remind us that we are not much different from the saints — many had broken relationships and friendships, unfulfilled dreams, and pain throughout life. They all however found solace and joy in a life anchored in Christ. Saints are icons — those who image God to us.

The statue of St. Joseph is central to the façade schema. He is to the center portal closest to the Virgin Mary and Christ Child.

(Continued on page 14)
The Annunciation featured in the Cathedral’s left portal tympanum

Father Jordan Hainsey
Messenger Contributor

The left portal tympanum of the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption portrays the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary by the angel Gabriel (Luke 1:35). Drawing on Clement J. Barnhurst’s 1977 monolithic Assumption tympanum, the Annunciation scene confines the entirety of the visual action to the foreground, channeling the emotion and dynamism through the figures of Mary and Gabriel. Centrally and figurally composed, the hand lays gently on her chest, expressing the overwhelming presence of the Holy Spirit. Surface detail and gesture elevate Gabriel’s presence, while his wings and enveloping stature denote his function as a divine messenger. The right hand is outstretched representing his message and invitation to Mary: ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus’ (Luke 1:30-33).

Gabriel kneels at a respectful distance from Mary while his wings and enveloping stature denotes his function as a divine messenger. His right hand is outstretched representing his message and invitation to Mary: ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus’ (Luke 1:30-33).

Coronavirus Report
(as of Monday, May 3)

The information below includes reported cases from the Curia, schools, parishes, organizations and religious houses in the Diocese of Covington. There are over 8,000 students in the diocesan schools, not including administrators, faculty and staff and hundreds of priests, employees and volunteers at the Curia and in parishes, organizations and religious houses.

Positive Cases
Active positive cases: 6
Recovered positive cases: 866
Total ever positive cases: 872
Currently Self-quarantined
Close Contacts: 11
Close Contacts with COVID case in household: 7

If your name is missing from the donor list, please accept our apologies and call the Messenger at (859) 392-1500 or e-mail messenger@cvrd.org.

Cathedral Façade Project
In grateful appreciation for the generous contributions

Artist
Nelson Carlin

Lead Gifts
St. Elizabeth Hospital
Thomas More University

Cathedral Basilica Parish
All Saints Parish, Walton
Divine Mercy Parish, Independence
Holy Cross Parish, Covington
Holy Redeemer Parish, Vanceburg
Holy Spirit Parish, Newport
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Burlington
Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish, Erlanger
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Park Hills
St. Agnes Parish, Ft. Wright
St. Ann Mission, Covington
St. Anthony Parish, Taylor Mill
St. Augustine Parish, Augusta
St. Augustine Parish, Covington
St. Barbara Parish, Erlanger
St. Benedict Parish, Covington
St. Bernard Parish, Dayton
Sts. Boniface and James Parish, Ludlow
St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Fort Thomas
St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Flemingsburg
St. Henry Church, Erlanger
St. James Mission, Middletown
St. James Parish, Brooksville
St. John the Baptist Parish, Wilder
St. John the Evangelist, Carrollton
St. John the Evangelist, Covington
St. Joseph Parish, Camp Springs
St. Joseph Parish, Cold Springs
St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs
St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Alexandria
St. Matthew Parish, Paris
St. Patrick Parish, Mayville
St. Patrick Parish, Taylor Mill
Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, California
St. Philip Parish, Melbourne
St. Xav. Parish, Edgewood

St. Rose of Lima Parish, Mays Lick
St. Theobald Parish, Southgate
St. Thomas Parish, Fort Thomas
St. Timothy Parish, Union
Diocese of Covington Deacon Community
Missionaries of St. John the Baptist

Anonymous (2)
Mr. and Mrs. Mark and Teresa Babey
Rev. Gregory J. Bach
Rev. Stephen M. Bankemper
Rev. Thomas C. Barnes
Rev. Paul L. Berschied
Rev. Michael A. Black
Rev. Eric L. Boeltecher
Dr. Lawrence Brennan and Mrs. Karen Enzweiler
Mrs. Linda Brown
Mrs. Rita Byrd
Mr. and Mrs. Peter and Betsy Djordjevic
Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Maria Murphy
Ms. Robyn Rigacci
Ms. Lois Roell

In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. James and Joyce Koff

St. John the Baptist Parish, Wilder
St. John the Evangelist, Covington
St. Joseph Parish, Camp Springs
St. Joseph Parish, Cold Springs
St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs
St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Alexandria
St. Matthew Parish, Paris
St. Patrick Parish, Mayville
St. Patrick Parish, Taylor Mill
Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, California
St. Philip Parish, Melbourne
St. Xav. Parish, Edgewood

May 8
Individual meeting, 9:40 a.m.
Mass, Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington, 4:30 p.m.
May 9
Mass, Cathedral Basilica, 10 a.m.
Meeting with Women Religious Superiors, 10 a.m.
Confirmation of St. Paul Parish candidates, Cathedral Basilica, 7 p.m.
May 11
Catholic Charities Governing Board meeting, 10 a.m.
Diocesan Finance Council meeting, 1:30 p.m.
Confirmation of St. Henry Parish candidates, Cathedral Basilica, 7 p.m.

May 12
Individual meeting, 1:45 p.m.
Individual meeting, 8:30 a.m.
Confirmation of St. James Parish candidates, Cathedral Basilica, Covington, 7 p.m.
May 14
Blessing of grotto, Bishop Brassart High School, Alexandria, 10 a.m.

May 15
Thomas More University Baccalaureate Mass, 8:30 a.m.
Mass, Cathedral Basilica, 4:30 p.m.

May 16
Blessing followed by baptism, Cathedral Basilica, 10 a.m.
Our heart is stronger than our wounds

Ten years before his death in 1996, Henri Nouwen was beset by a depression that nearly broke him. While in treatment, he wrote a very powerful book, “The Inner Voice of Love,” in which he humbly and candidly shared his struggles and the efforts it took to overcome them. At times, he felt completely overwhelmed by his wounds and obsessions and was on the edge of drowning, of collapse, when the only thing he could do was cry. Eventually, though, he found again his inner strength and emerged resilient, ready to re-enter his life with renewed energy. Remarking on what he learned from this inner collapse and his eventual return to health, he writes that, in the end, “our hearts are stronger than our wounds.”

That’s a powerful affirmation of a hard-earned truth; but it is always true? Are our hearts always stronger than our wounds? Do we always have the resources deep down to overcome our wounds? Sometimes yes, as in the case of Nouwen; but sometimes no, as we see in the broken lives of so many. Sometimes, it seems wounds overpower the heart. Perhaps one poignant example can help us to illustrate this. There is a sad, tragic, haunting line in the well-known times no, as we see in the broken lives of so many.

As we gazed upon the flower petals blanketing the footpaths rather than the trees, I realized an important lesson. The Japanese celebrate the “sakura” because they symbolize the fleeting nature of life. For them, spring is a time to contemplate the brevity of life and to practice gratitude and mindfulness by being present in the moment. When the cherry blossoms hit their peak in Japan, life pauses for a few days and people gather under the trees to picnic and enjoy their fleeting beauty. They know that nature is not governed by human convenience, even though we often assume that we can control everything around us. The pandemic taught us the patience of waiting for nature to take its course. The cherry blossoms teach us to seize the graces of each unrepeatable moment.

As we gazed upon the flower petals blanketing the footpaths rather than the trees, I realized an important lesson. The Japanese celebrate the “sakura” because they symbolize the fleeting nature of life. For them, spring is a time to contemplate the brevity of life and to practice gratitude and mindfulness by being present in the moment. When the cherry blossoms hit their peak in Japan, life pauses for a few days and people gather under the trees to picnic and enjoy their fleeting beauty. They know that nature is not governed by human convenience, even though we often assume that we can control everything around us. The pandemic taught us the patience of waiting for nature to take its course. The cherry blossoms teach us to seize the graces of each unrepeatable moment. I learned a second, even more important lesson this spring, one that is uniquely relevant to our elderly residents. As I delved into Japanese culture I discovered “kintsugi,” a term referring to the repair of broken pottery. Through the process of kintsugi artists mend broken vessels by filling the cracks with gold. Damage is not hidden but accentuated. According to Japanese tradition, when something has been broken it acquires a history and is thus transformed into something more beautiful and valuable. This philosophy is also applied to human experience. Although the philosophy of kintsugi originated outside our Christian faith, it resonates with it. As we journey through life’s ups and downs, God teaches us to look on traumatic events in a positive way, taking the best from them and embracing our inevitable cracks and scars as treasures that make us more beautiful in God’s eyes — and more aware of our need for him.

Old Testament prophets spoke of God as the potter forming us like clay in his hands. St. Paul reminded us that we carry our own crosses and that the weight of our suffering surpassing power may be of God and not from us.” (2 Cor 4:7)

Paul appealed to believers not to be discouraged by their brokenness. “Although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison as we look not to the things that are seen but to what is unseen.” (2 Cor 4:16-17)

St. Peter also saw value in trials: “For a little while you may have to suffer through various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold, though perishable even though tested by fire, may prove to be for praise, glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 1:7)

We have not seen a case of the Coronavirus among our residents for many months but it is evident that the pandemic has taken a toll. Some residents seem less sure on their feet, for others their vision, hearing or memory is less clear.

Yet when we talked about the concept of kintsugi, our seniors agreed that they are proud of having survived this tough period, and like worn vessels repaired with gold, they look on their aches and limitations as precious scars that prove their inner strength and resilience.

Sister Constance Veit is director of communications for the Little Sisters of the Poor.

Nothing speaks of spring more than blossoms in March and April. Since moving to Washington several years ago, I’ve become fascinated by the cherry blossoms that blanket Washington’s urban landscape. The petals are pink and white. Each year I try to organize special activities to allow our elderly residents to participate in our city’s annual Cherry Blossom Festival. Since the festival was shut down last year due to the pandemic, I was even more excited about it this year. Each March, I post the official Park Service’s Cherry Blossom Watch report daily.

After a few days of exceptionally warm weather, the blossoms reached their peak at the beginning of Holy Week, quite an inopportune time for us since musical performances are packed with its own very significant activities. It’s hardly reached their peak at the beginning of Holy Week — March and April.

The cherry blossoms teach us to seize the graces of each unrepeatable moment. As we gazed upon the flower petals blanketing the footpaths rather than the trees, I realized an important lesson. The Japanese celebrate the “sakura” because they symbolize the fleeting nature of life. For them, spring is a time to contemplate the brevity of life and to practice gratitude and mindfulness by being present in the moment. When the cherry blossoms hit their peak in Japan, life pauses for a few days and people gather under the trees to picnic and enjoy their fleeting beauty. They know that nature is not governed by human convenience, even though we often assume that we can control everything around us. The pandemic taught us the patience of waiting for nature to take its course. The cherry blossoms teach us to seize the graces of each unrepeatable moment. I learned a second, even more important lesson this spring, one that is uniquely relevant to our elderly residents. As I delved into Japanese culture I discovered “kintsugi,” a term referring to the repair of broken pottery. Through the process of kintsugi artists mend broken vessels by filling the cracks with gold. Damage is not hidden but accentuated. According to Japanese tradition, when something has been broken it acquires a history and is thus transformed into something more beautiful and valuable. This philosophy is also applied to human experience. Although the philosophy of kintsugi originated outside our Christian faith, it resonates with it. As we journey through life’s ups and downs, God teaches us to look on traumatic events in a positive way, taking the best from them and embracing our inevitable cracks and scars as treasures that make us more beautiful in God’s eyes — and more aware of our need for him.

Old Testament prophets spoke of God as the potter forming us like clay in his hands. St. Paul reminded us that we carry our own crosses and that the weight of our suffering surpassing power may be of God and not from us.” (2 Cor 4:7)

Paul appealed to believers not to be discouraged by their brokenness. “Although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison as we look not to the things that are seen but to what is unseen.” (2 Cor 4:16-17)

St. Peter also saw value in trials: “For a little while you may have to suffer through various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold, though perishable even though tested by fire, may prove to be for praise, glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 1:7)

We have not seen a case of the Coronavirus among our residents for many months but it is evident that the pandemic has taken a toll. Some residents seem less sure on their feet, for others their vision, hearing or memory is less clear.

Yet when we talked about the concept of kintsugi, our seniors agreed that they are proud of having survived this tough period, and like worn vessels repaired with gold, they look on their aches and limitations as precious scars that prove their inner strength and resilience.

Sister Constance Veit is director of communications for the Little Sisters of the Poor.

What I learned from the cherry blossoms

Ten years before his death in 1996, Henri Nouwen was beset by a depression that nearly broke him. While in treatment, he wrote a very powerful book, “The Inner Voice of Love,” in which he humbly and candidly shared his struggles and the efforts it took to overcome them. At times, he felt completely overwhelmed by his wounds and obsessions and was on the edge of drowning, of collapse, when the only thing he could do was cry. Eventually, though, he found again his inner strength and emerged resilient, ready to re-enter his life with renewed energy. Remarking on what he learned from this inner collapse and his eventual return to health, he writes that, in the end, “our hearts are stronger than our wounds.”

That’s a powerful affirmation of a hard-earned truth; but it is always true? Are our hearts always stronger than our wounds? Do we always have the resources deep down to overcome our wounds? Sometimes yes, as in the case of Nouwen; but sometimes no, as we see in the broken lives of so many. Sometimes, it seems wounds overpower the heart. Perhaps one poignant example can help us to illustrate this. There is a sad, tragic, haunting line in the well-known times no, as we see in the broken lives of so many.

As we gazed upon the flower petals blanketing the footpaths rather than the trees, I realized an important lesson. The Japanese celebrate the “sakura” because they symbolize the fleeting nature of life. For them, spring is a time to contemplate the brevity of life and to practice gratitude and mindfulness by being present in the moment. When the cherry blossoms hit their peak in Japan, life pauses for a few days and people gather under the trees to picnic and enjoy their fleeting beauty. They know that nature is not governed by human convenience, even though we often assume that we can control everything around us. The pandemic taught us the patience of waiting for nature to take its course. The cherry blossoms teach us to seize the graces of each unrepeatable moment. I learned a second, even more important lesson this spring, one that is uniquely relevant to our elderly residents. As I delved into Japanese culture I discovered “kintsugi,” a term referring to the repair of broken pottery. Through the process of kintsugi artists mend broken vessels by filling the cracks with gold. Damage is not hidden but accentuated. According to Japanese tradition, when something has been broken it acquires a history and is thus transformed into something more beautiful and valuable. This philosophy is also applied to human experience. Although the philosophy of kintsugi originated outside our Christian faith, it resonates with it. As we journey through life’s ups and downs, God teaches us to look on traumatic events in a positive way, taking the best from them and embracing our inevitable cracks and scars as treasures that make us more beautiful in God’s eyes — and more aware of our need for him.

Old Testament prophets spoke of God as the potter forming us like clay in his hands. St. Paul reminded us that we carry our own crosses and that the weight of our suffering surpassing power may be of God and not from us.” (2 Cor 4:7)

Paul appealed to believers not to be discouraged by their brokenness. “Although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison as we look not to the things that are seen but to what is unseen.” (2 Cor 4:16-17)

St. Peter also saw value in trials: “For a little while you may have to suffer through various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold, though perishable even though tested by fire, may prove to be for praise, glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 1:7)

We have not seen a case of the Coronavirus among our residents for many months but it is evident that the pandemic has taken a toll. Some residents seem less sure on their feet, for others their vision, hearing or memory is less clear.

Yet when we talked about the concept of kintsugi, our seniors agreed that they are proud of having survived this tough period, and like worn vessels repaired with gold, they look on their aches and limitations as precious scars that prove their inner strength and resilience.

Sister Constance Veit is director of communications for the Little Sisters of the Poor.
Hope for the future

It has been a wonderful four months at St. Anne Retreat Center. We’ve just concluded the final Senior High School Retreat and it has been a great experience for us as well as for the students. We had an opportunity to share in the difficulties that COVID-19 has presented and see that there is a reason for hope, and that hope is in Jesus Christ.

For me personally it was an opportunity to hear from the students the struggles that they have experienced in their senior year. When I look back on my senior year all those many years ago, I can recall fondly the events that took place. I was able to see that with the right guidance, those same thoughts can apply to most of us. I do appreciate community more than I did in the past. It is so wonderful to see people coming together and being able to sing again. You can almost feel the vibration in the building when the singing begins. I haven’t heard the Gloria sung with such enthusiasm in a long time. What St. Augustine said is true, singing is praying twice, then the building when the singing begins. I haven’t heard the

All of this says a great deal for the value of Catholic education. But that education is not enough. They need to know how important it is to put their faith into action and to make sure they attend Mass. The Eucharist is what strengthens us for the battles ahead and I’ve told them that there are many battles to come. Without the sacraments, without Mass, we become weakened and that’s what’s needed now. We need strong, committed Catholics out in the world bringing the truth, beauty and goodness of our Catholic faith into the world. While education is important, Catholic experience deepens the meaning of that education.

Pray for these seniors as they prepare to enter an important transitional phase in their lives. It is a challenging time to be a person of faith. They need us lifting them up in prayer in order to sustain that faith. Pray for our educators and those involved in the formation of our Catholic school students. Without our education, our future is certain to be different. We ask ourselves: Can I bring forth new life, as Mary did? Or if not new life, then a new look at life?

The future belongs to the youth of the world. All we should be examples to them of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ through our words and actions. They have the strength of faith to carry them through. Yes, I have hope for the future because of the promises of Christ, his peace, joy and love. He would never abandon us. What more do we need?

Deacon David Profitt is director of the St. Anne Retreat Center, Melbourne, and is assigned to Holy Spirit Parish, Newport.

Let it be and look for new life

This year we celebrated the feast of the Annunciation in the week before Good Friday. With these two days so close together. Mary trusted in her foster father of the Four Gospels. (Matt 12:46-50, Mark 3:31–35, Luke 1:18-23)

Jesus himself practiced what he taught. The night before he died he accepted the will of his Father as he cried out in agony his own fiat: “Not my will, but Thine be done.” Together, Mary’s and Jesus’ acceptance of the will of the Father; brought about both the Incarnation and the Redemption.

One of the authors I read says “this Gospel reminds us that the incarnation and redemption are clearly related to one another and are not to be sharply divided.”

Fiat meum coram eis — Let it be done to me according to your word. Fiat voluntas tua — Thy will be done.

The first Fiat resulted in new life — Jesus the Savior was born! The second Fiat also resulted in new life but only after the death of Jesus — the Resurrection! — and, the promise of a new resurrected life for us. It was her vocation to have a child. The second Fiat is only for the people who are aware of these words, “Thy Will be done!”

What does it mean for me and for you? God does not will that we suffer; it is part of the human condition. Instead, he sent his Son to teach us how to bear it, and to heal all those he met.

What is my fiat? What does God ask of us? Some examples came to mind.

Can I accept the reality of old age, and its accompanying diminishments? I may be getting forgetful. My sight is not as good too. It gets harder to hear what others say. I join the parade of mobile walkers and use a cane. Perhaps I get the news that I, or someone in my family has cancer or another terrible illness. And, if I accept any of these in my own life, then I must also accept them with charity in others, who are always before me.

We ask ourselves: Can I bring forth new life, as Mary did? Or if not new life, then a new look at life? If we mean what we say in these words — accepting God’s will — it can bear fruit. Christ can be reborn in others or we can recognize him in others and serve him in them.

In 1970 a new song hit the pop music charts, originating with a young man from Livermore, Ky. He was part of a group whose music you may remember. The lyrics went like this: “When I find myself in times of trouble, Mother Mary comes to me, speaking words of wisdom, ‘Let it be.’” And in my hour of darkness she is standing right in front of me, speaking words of wisdom, ‘Let it be.’”

But Mary trusted, and had the courage to say “let it be,” the most powerful “YES” ever spoken by a human being.

Many years later, this divine son of hers — in his work of teaching — stood before a crowd of people, and one of his disciples pointed out to him that his mother was there in the crowd. Jesus answered, “Who is my mother? Whoever does what my Father in heaven wants him to do, is my brother, my sister, my mother.”

So important is this teaching, that it is related in three of the four Gospels. (Matt 12:46-50, Mark 3:31-35, Luke 8:18-23)

Let It Be — Open hearts, all receive Christ

Father Gregory Bach

She would take one hand and pry open the other so she could receive the Eucharist. You see the same thing in other sacraments, many different people who are looking for a deeper experience with Jesus through the sacraments. God does not hold back. He shares his grace, his love and peace through the sacraments. It does not matter who you are or where you are from, God wants to be a part of your life. What it requires is an open heart.

When we open our lives to God wonderful things can happen. Grace happens. Our world can change through an encounter with God. Jesus said to his disciples: “As the Father loves me, so I love you.” We should all draw near to these words of Jesus from the Gospel. He loves us and there is nothing we can do about that.

Father Gregory Bach is pastor St. Henry Parish, Elsmere, Ky.

Guest

Sister Mary Carol Hellman, O.S.B.

As a priest, when distributing Communion, you see many people come down and put their hands. When you look down to place the body of Christ in their hands you can see that all hands are different.

There was a lady who came to church several times a week and when she put out her hands they were in an unusual position. She had terrible arthritis in her hands.

In 1970 a new song hit the pop music charts, originating with a young man from Livermore, Ky. He was part of a group whose music you may remember. The lyrics went like this: “When I find myself in times of trouble, Mother Mary comes to me, speaking words of wisdom, ‘Let it be.’” And in my hour of darkness she is standing right in front of me, speaking words of wisdom, ‘Let it be.’”

But Mary trusted, and had the courage to say “let it be,” the most powerful “YES” ever spoken by a human being.

Many years later, this divine son of hers — in his work of teaching — stood before a crowd of people, and one of his disciples pointed out to him that his mother was there in the crowd. Jesus answered, “Who is my mother? Whoever does what my Father in heaven wants him to do, is my brother, my sister, my mother.”

So important is this teaching, that it is related in three of the four Gospels. (Matt 12:46-50, Mark 3:31-35, Luke 8:18-23)
The Coronation featured in the Cathedral’s right portal tympanum

Father Jordan Hainsey
Messenger Contributor

The right portal tympanum of the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption portrays the Coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Drawing on Clement J. Barnhorn’s 1917 Assumption tympanum, the Coronation presents the moment when Mary is crowned by the Blessed Trinity as Queen of Heaven and Earth.

While the belief of Mary as Queen of Heaven obtained formal papal sanction by Pope Pius XII in his 1954 encyclical “Ad Caeli Reginam,” its origin and depictions are ancient. Coronation scenes of the Blessed Virgin Mary were widely popular in art during the beginning of the early Gothic period and spread into the 16th century. This popularity drew heavily on the imagery.

Fathers like St. Jerome, and in an account from the later 10th century, no attempt was made to represent a depiction of God the Father as they formulated representative paintings of Trinitarian scenes. While depictions of the Trinity and God the Father slowly declined following the Council of Trent in the 16th century, such artistic depiction flourished in places like Italy, Spain, and Germany, and they continued to preserve the pantheon of sacred Catholic imagery.

To God the Father’s right sits God the Father, who has traditionally been depicted as a dignified old man. Prior to the 16th century, no attempt was made to represent a depiction of the figure of God the Father in Western art. Yet, Western artists eventually began to illustrate the presence of the figure of God the Father in their paintings, as they formulated representative paintings of Trinitarian scenes.

The relief shows the seven saints of the Coronation tympanum, added to the 30 portal jamb statues and four buttress niche statues, help create a visual display of the patrons of Covington’s 47 parishes of the Diocese of Covington and its institutions.

St. Anthony of Padua – Pastor

The relief of the great 13th century Portuguese, Italian, St. Anthony of Padua, is shown in the habit of the Franciscan Order with a clerical tunic to denote his humility and sacerdotal responsibility for God’s people. A cord of three knots at his waist recalls his religious vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. Known as the patron saint of lost things, St. Anthony stands with open arms signifying openness to the beatific vision. St. Anthony was born on the feast of the Assumption, in 1195 A.D., and would die in 1231 with his favorite hymn, “O gloriosa Domina...” (O glorious Lady), on his lips, showing Mary’s guiding role in his life. He is remembered as one of the Church’s greatest pastor of souls (far right).

Feast Day June 13

St. Cecilia – Prophet

St. Cecilia is one of the most famous Roman virgin martyrs of the early Church from the third century. The relief depicts her youthful in sumptuous dress, recounting the tradition that identifies her as a young Christian of high rank, betrothed to a Roman, and martyred for the faith. Kneeling in adoration, St. Cecilia bears a small organ, recalling how she sang to God not just with her voice, but with the offering of her very life. She has been a prophetic witness and patron for sacred music in the Church’s liturgical worship throughout the centuries. (third from left)

Feast Day November 22

St. Edward the Confessor – Teacher

Born in the 11th century, St. Edward the Confessor was hailed throughout his life as a gentle, loyal, and devoted king. The relief shows him with long hair and a rich beard, drawing on a description from his Vita. Bearing a scepter and dressed in royal robes and with a crown, Edward kneels in adoration to the true king, Jesus Christ, and Our Lady, now crowned Queen of Heaven and Earth. St. Edward was the first Anglo-Saxon and the only king of England to be canonized. Throughout his life and rule, Edward served as a teacher of the faith to his people. (fourth from right)

Feast Day October 13

St. Francis Xavier – Evangelist

The great 16th century Portuguese, St. Francis Xavier, came to the faith through the influence of St. Ignatius of Loyola and the Society of Jesus. The relief depicts him in a Jesuit cassock, surplice, and stole, recalling his tireless work ministering to the Hindus, the Malaysans, the

(Continued on page 15)
GROSSER & Co. REMODELING
Making your remodeling dreams a reality!

Specializing in:
- Additions
- Whole House
- Bathrooms
- Kitchens
- Basements

Marty Grosser, CGR 859-441-0012
grosserco.com

Call Kim at the Messenger for information on placing your ad in the Spring Home Improvement Advertisements.
(859) 392-1500
Stephen Enzweiler
Cathedral Historian

Two weeks ago, history was made at the Cathedral Basilica. Travelers and pedestrians along Madison Avenue stood and watched as the last jamb statue was mortared into place in the last open space in the façade’s central portal. The statue was that of Pope St. Pius X, who joined 23 other saints adorning the spaces across the façade’s front that had waited to be filled for more than a century. The project had gone on for two years, and now the last of the work was done. The façade is finally complete, the dream and vision of its builder, Bishop Camillus P. Maes, realized at last.

It is no small thing to try and fathom what it was that permitted a man like Bishop Maes to attempt building such a gothic masterpiece as St. Mary’s Cathedral. There is strong evidence that he believed God had specifically chosen him to build the new edifice for the people of Covington. He must’ve felt a divine commission in the disappointment he experienced at discovering the “spiritual narrowness of the people” — that apathy with which the parishes and faithful of his diocese were living without any sense of Christian unity or community. And as the people’s spirituality was going, so he also found the old cathedral — the central symbol of Catholicism in the diocese — falling into a state of neglect.

It seems unbelievable that under circumstances of deep debt and poverty he dared to take on such a daunting project. He might have reminded his detractors that “with God all things are possible” [Matt 19:26] and when things went badly during its construction (as it often did), he was overheard to whisper under his breath, “His will be done.” And then there were the unlikely and improbable turnings of events that produced large, sudden sums of money out of nowhere, enabling him to hire his architect and begin construction. And when that money was exhausted and he was forced to finish his beloved cathedral without a façade, how improbably came yet another large sum in 1906, just in time and sufficient enough to complete the façade we see and enjoy today.

For the façade project, Bishop Maes engaged David Davis as architect. The intricate task of developing the drawings with their vast structural requirements and equally minute details demanded his unusual skill and artistry, and the façade, as it stands today, gives eloquent tribute to Mr. Davis’ mastery of a difficult style of architecture. For two years the work progressed, brick by brick, foot by foot, until its parapets rose to 128 feet above Madison Avenue.

Completion of the structure marked the occasion of the silver jubilee of Bishop Maes’ consecration, celebrated with a pontifical Mass on June 29, 1910. “It has been my ambition to give the public a token of
my love for the city by erecting in it a monument which
would speak for centuries to come of the love of Christ for
souls,” he wrote for its dedication. In the end, Maes knew
he would not live to see all his plans realized. All he was
able to accomplish in those last five years was to commis-
sion Clement Barnhorn to carve the statue of Madonna
and child and the central portal relief of the Assumption
with its elaborately carved arches.

When Bishop Maes died on May 11, 1915, the remaining
lower level of the façade was empty of any art or statuary.
His successor, Bishop Ferdinand Brossart, saddled with
his own challenges while working to finish the installation
of the remaining stained glass windows, and owing to his
brief episcopacy, never was able to follow up on his prede-
cessors’ legacy. It was the same with succeeding bishops.
Ultimately, Bishop Maes’ ideas for the façade’s completion
failed with time.

But we in our time have been able to reach back into
history and pull from its shadows the thoughts of the man
whose vision and leadership built our Cathedral Basilica.

Amazingly, Bishop Maes’ original ideas for decorating the
façade had been preserved—discovered in drawings, let-
ters and other documents and papers which he and David
Davis left us. They were ideas that finally came to the
attention of Bishop Roger Foys, who felt it was time.

In April 2019—104 years after Bishop Maes’ death—
Bishop Foys announced the “Speaking for Centuries
Campaign,” which became the engine that revived the
effort for finishing the Cathedral’s façade as Maes original-
ly envisioned.

“This campaign will serve as our witness of faith and
community to future generations,” the bishop wrote in a
letter to pastors. Following the plans developed by Bishop
Maes, artists and sculptors worked for more than a year
completing the north and south portal tympana with relief
depictions of the Blessed Mother’s Annunciation and
Coronation, along with 24 saint statues representing the
saints of parishes and of organizations of the diocese that
now grace the jamb spaces and upper buttress niches.

In 2019, Mr. Carlin was commissioned by the Archdiocese
of Philadelphia to paint the official image of the Holy Family for the World Meeting of Families with
Pope Francis. Viewed by millions and included on official
materials for the papal event, the image received unani-
mous acclaim for its timeless beauty and presentation of
the Holy Family with Sts. Joachim and Anne.

Mr. Carlin holds a bachelor of fine arts in illustration
from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, and he
completed his formal studies privately under figure
painter Michael Aviano—a pupil of the legendary illus-
trator Frank J. Reilly. Through Mr. Aviano, Mr. Carlin
traces his instructional lineage directly to the Ecole des
Beaux-Arts of 19th century France. In addition to his stu-
dio work, Mr. Carlin is the founder of the Neilson Carlin
Academy of Fine Art, in Kennett Square, Penn., where
students are equipped with an education grounded in clas-
sical painting technique and form.

Neilson Carlin –
Cathedral Basilica façade artist

Neilson Carlin is a world-renowned artist who special-
tizes in sacred and devotional art. A conversion to
Catholicism prompted Mr. Carlin to commit his career to
ecclesiastical art after two decades in commercial and
gallery art markets. Held in collections throughout the
world, Mr. Carlin’s prestigious commissions are found in
cathedrals and churches across North America. His work
is featured in the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in
La Crosse, Wis.; the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in
Kansas City, Mo.; Our Lady of Guadalupe Roman Catholic
Church in Buckingham, Penn.; St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul, Minn.;
Epiphany Roman Catholic Church in Normal, Ill.; St. Rocco’s Roman Catholic
Church in Jovensale, Penn.; Sacred Heart Church in
Rovershead, Penn.; Church of St. Mary in Schwenksville,
Penn.; and St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church in Healdsburg, Calif.

In 2015, Mr. Carlin was commissioned by the Archdiocese
of Philadelphia to paint the official image of the Holy Family for the World Meeting of Families with
Pope Francis. Viewed by millions and included on official
materials for the papal event, the image received unani-
mous acclaim for its timeless beauty and presentation of
the Holy Family with Sts. Joachim and Anne.

Mr. Carlin holds a bachelor of fine arts in illustration
from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, and he
completed his formal studies privately under figure
painter Michael Aviano—a pupil of the legendary illus-
trator Frank J. Reilly. Through Mr. Aviano, Mr. Carlin
traces his instructional lineage directly to the Ecole des
Beaux-Arts of 19th century France. In addition to his stu-
dio work, Mr. Carlin is the founder of the Neilson Carlin
Academy of Fine Art, in Kennett Square, Penn., where
students are equipped with an education grounded in clas-
sical painting technique and form.

Mr. Carlin’s work has been exhibited in solo, group and
juried exhibitions. They include: the Arnot Art Museum;
the Arts Club of Washington; the Louie Wells Cameron
Museum; the State Museum of Pennsylvania. In 2003, his painting “Transcendence” was
awarded first place in the Still Life category of The Artist’s
Magazine’s 20th annual National Art Competition. In 2004,
his painting “Emergence” received second place in the
Portrait category of The Artist’s Magazine’s 21st annual
National Art Competition. Both paintings were selected
from over 12,000 entries nationwide. His work has been
published in the Spring 2006 American Artist Drawing
Magazine article, “Strokes of Genius: The Best of
Drawing and How Did you Paint That?” 100 Ways to Paint
Still Life & Floral.” In 2008 and 2014, he was the recipient
of the first-place award in the nationwide juried Catholic
Arts Exhibition at St. Vincent College in Latrobe, Penn.,
and in 2018, Mr. Carlin received an honorable mention in
the exhibition’s seventh iteration.

In 2019, Mr. Carlin was commissioned by the Roman
Catholic Diocese of Covington, Ky., to design 24 statues
and two tympana bas-reliefs to complete the neo-Gothic
façade of the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption.
Drawing inspiration from the Cathedral Basilica’s neo-
Gothic architecture and extant sculptural work by 19th
century American sculptor Clement J. Barnhorn, Mr.
Carlin’s sculptural designs fuse 19th century aesthetic and
tradition with 21st century vision and artistry. Clarity of
line and individuality characterize the procession of 24,
four-and-a-half feet tall statues that grace the Cathedral
Basilica’s façade. Two tympana complete the Marian nar-
rative and tripart portal schema left incomplete in 1917.
The façade was completed in April 2021.
Cross Catholic Outreach
Committed To Stopping “Silent Killer” of Guatemala’s Poor

The devastating consequence of Guatemalan poverty rarely gets covered in the news. Occasionally, the world is told about some act of crime or violence in the country, a symptom of the desperation poverty creates, but we seldom hear about the silent killer tragically impacting Guatemala’s poorest families — malnutrition.

Extreme hunger and the medical hardships it creates impact thousands of Guatemalans without drawing much attention from the world at large, even though most of the victims are babies and young children. Only local Catholic leaders seem to have found solutions to this crisis, and it is their efforts to provide nutritious food to the poor on a regular basis that have begun to make a difference.

“Malnutrition has a terrible impact on poor children, and this crisis is particularly deadly in Guatemala’s remote, rural regions. There, where families live too far from hospitals or clinics capable of helping them, a serious lack of resources and inadequate food production create the perfect conditions for malnutrition to thrive,” explained James Cavanar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach, a major Catholic charity working with local leaders to find solutions. “Poor mothers are forced to choose which of their children to feed on a given day, and they watch in despair as their sons and daughters weaken, grow gaunt and lose the will to live.”

Cavanar went on to explain the major difference between hunger and malnutrition:

“Most Americans think of hunger as a temporary thing — a pain that will eventually be relieved — and praise God, that’s often the case. A child in the U.S. may go hungry at times, but that hunger isn’t usually a life-threatening issue,” he said. “Guatemalan children showing signs of malnutrition have typically endured hunger for weeks or months on end, and at that point, they begin to manifest signs of mental and physical damage that may become irreversible.

Stunted growth is one of the most common physical problems Cavanar has seen, and the harm it does to a child’s body is lasting.

In the Diocese of Suchitepéquez-Retalhuleu, rural communities are relying on help to obtain the food they need to reduce the risk of malnutrition among children.

“You can imagine the pain this creates for parents. When they are poor and have no food to offer their children, they begin to feel powerless to stop the decline of their sons and daughters are experiencing,” Cavanar said. “Travel into rural areas of Guatemala and you will meet many poor mothers who live in despair, feeling they will never be able to provide relief for their suffering little ones without some kind of outside help.”

Thankfully, Church leaders in Guatemala have a heart for the poor and marginalized, and they are working in partnership with Cross Catholic Outreach to distribute food where it is needed most. (see related story on opposite page.)

“Right now, we are developing a feeding outreach in the Diocese of Suchitepéquez- Retalhuleu to address the needs of its rural Guatemalan families,” Cavanar said. “These local Catholic leaders were eager to supply food to the vulnerable in their diocese, but they needed help to put the right programs in place. Cross Catholic Outreach will be involved, of course, and we are hoping and praying American Catholics will want to add their support as well. The more who contribute to this mission of mercy, the more we can accomplish. So we are asking for people to be generous in their response.”

Readers interested in supporting Cross Catholic Outreach food programs and other outreachs to the poor can contribute through the ministry brochure this issue or send tax-deductible gifts to: Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. A01727, PO Box 97168, Washington DC 20090-7168. The ministry has a special need for partners willing to make gifts on a monthly basis. Use the inserted brochure to become a Mission Partner or write “Monthly Mission Partner” on mailed checks to be contacted about setting up those arrangements.

Cross Catholic Outreach Endorsed by More Than 100 Bishops, Archbishops

Cross Catholic Outreach’s range of relief work to help the poor overseas continues to be recognized by a growing number of Catholic leaders in the U.S. and abroad.

“We’ve received more than 100 endorsements from bishops and archbishops,” explained Jim Cavanar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach. “They’re moved by the fact that we’ve launched outreachs in almost 40 countries and have undertaken a variety of projects — everything from feeding the hungry and housing the homeless to supplying safe water and supporting educational opportunities for the poorest of the poor. The bishops have also been impressed by Cross Catholic Outreach’s direct and meaningful response to emergency situations, most recently by providing food, medicines and other resources to partners in Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala impacted by natural disasters.”

Bishop Ronald W. Gainer of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, supports this mission, writing, “What a joy it is to be part of the Lord’s redemptive work and to manifest his mercy on Earth by caring for our neighbors in need.”

In addition to praising CCO’s accomplishments, many of the bishops and archbishops are encouraged that pontifical canonical status was conferred on the charity in September 2015, granting it approval as an official Catholic organization. This allows CCO to participate in the mission of the Church and to give a concrete witness to Gospel charity, in collaboration with the Holy Father.

“Your work with the Diocese for Promoting Integral Human Development is a strong endorsement of your partnership with the work of the Universal Church,” Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of San Francisco said. “By providing hope to the faithful overseas by feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, delivering medical relief to the sick and sheltering the homeless, as well as through self-help projects, you are embodying the papal encyclical Divus Caritas Est.”
A “Neighbor in Need” Appeals to American Catholics for Help During Serious Food Crisis

In the department of Suchitepéquez, Guatemala, poor families typically rely on farming for survival, and because their remote villages are isolated, many become very dependent on the success of their local harvest. This becomes a very dangerous gamble in years when nature does not cooperate.

“Oftentimes we can take for granted the numerous German and Irish immigrants who built the Cathedral Basilica. Numerous photos from the Cathedral archives, though, give mute testimony to their enduring memory. Men are shown dangling precariously from wooden scaffolding. Massive blocks and neo-gothic finials are shown being set into place as teams of workmen on the ground below manage a vast series of ropes and pulleys. There’s one photo in particular with Bishop Camillus Paul Maes, standing amidst the complex construction. He’s right there with the people — the immigrants — building a monument for the people of Covington to “speak for centuries.”

While some documentation exists that relate the names of those involved in the building, many are lost to history — their memory though lives on. We remember them each and every time we look up and admire the magnificent stone carving. It is kept alive when we are lost in awe at a building raised up long before modern cranes and hardhats. And, it is kept alive now, each and every time we pass by the new statue of St. Joseph — a reminder of our immigrants and craftsmen, and a concrete sign — an icon — of St. Joseph, our tireless witness and intercessor.

Bob Piccola, CGR
602 Taylor Ave., Bellevue KY 41073
Ph: 859-491-8926  Fx: 859-491-9436
www.piccolaconstruction.com

The men and women in Guatemala work very hard to provide for their children, but bad weather can destroy their crops and strip away their earnings. At those times, the Church must step in and help.

How to Help
To fund Cross Catholic Outreach’s effort to help the poor worldwide, use the postage-paid brochure inserted in this newspaper or mail your gift to Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC81727, PO Box 95168, Washington DC 20090-7168. The brochure also includes instructions on becoming a Mission Partner and making a regular monthly donation to this cause.

If you identify a child in need, 100% of the donation will be directed to the specific project. However, if more is raised for the project than needed, funds will be redirected to other urgent needs in the ministry.
The timeless St. Joseph
(Continued from page 3)
recalling his patronage of the Universal Church. A T- square in his left-hand recalls his occupation as a work- man, while tiles in his right-hand recall his purity as fos- ter-father to the Christ child and husband of the Virgin Mary. Both are symbols long associated with St. Joseph. His face and expression are contemporary however, reflecting and honoring the immigrant workers and crafts- men who built the Cathedral Basilica.

Oftentimes we can take for granted the numerous German and Irish immigrants who built the Cathedral Basilica. Numerous photos from the Cathedral archives, though, give mute testimony to their enduring memory. Men are shown dangling precariously from wooden scaffolding. Massive blocks and neo-gothic finials are shown being set into place as teams of workmen on the ground below manage a vast series of ropes and pulleys.

There’s one photo in particular with Bishop Camillus Paul Maes, standing amidst the complex construction. He’s right there with the people — the immigrants — building a monument for the people of Covington to “speak for centuries.”

While some documentation exists that relate the names of those involved in the building, many are lost to history — their memory though lives on. We remember them each and every time we look up and admire the magnificent stone carving. It is kept alive when we are lost in awe at a basilica raised up long before modern cranes and hard- hats. And, it is kept alive now, each and every time we pass by the new statue of St. Joseph — a reminder of our immi- grants and craftsmen and a concrete sign — an icon — of St. Joseph, our tireless witness and intercessor.
The Coronation
(Continued from page 15)

Japanese, and the Indians. His empty, outstretched arms recall his poverty of spirit and total reliance on God throughout his evangelizing work. Shown in ecstasy, St. Francis’ likeness is taken from artistic works completed during his lifetime. He is co-patron of the missions with St. Thomas of Canterbury. (far left)

Feast Day December 3

St. Matthew – Apostle

St. Matthew was the apostle and evangelist known as Levi (Mark 2:14; Luke 5:27). Born in Capernaum, his job was to collect taxes on people, animals, and goods that passed through the region. In his relief, Matthew holds his Gospel open to the Lord, teaching the viewer that its words lead to eternal life. In his left hand he bears a ballot (bat-tle-axe), the weapon tradition says was used for his beheading in Ethiopia. Looking upward, the relief recalls how Matthew spoke reverently of the Blessed Virgin Mary, setting the stage for Luke’s Gospel where she will speak for herself. (second from right)

Feast Day September 21

St. Philip – Apostle

The apostle St. Philip was a native of Bethsaida on Lake Genesareth, and he was among those who surrounding the Baptist when he first pointed out Jesus as “the Lamb of God” (John 1:41). Jesus then met Philip and called him to the apostolate with the words, “Follow me.” The relief depicts St. Philip contemplating the beatific vision while bearing a cross. Tradition says that St. Philip preached in Greece and was crucified upside down at Hierapolis, Turkey, under the patronage of the Roman Emperor Domitian. (second from left)

Feast Day November 14

St. Thomas – Apostle

St. Thomas was one of the Twelve Apostles that the Gospel of St. John identifies as “Thomas, called the Twin” (11:18). In the relief, St. Thomas raises his finger, pointing to the scene above. With this gesture, it recalls his doubt at Jesus’ resurrection (John 20:24-28), but it now conversely teaches the viewer to have faith and believe in things unseen. Prominent in Marian tradition, an early document from the second century titled “The Passing of Mary” stated that St. Thomas was the only witness of the assumption of Mary into Heaven. The apostle St. Thomas would later carry the Gospel to India. (third from right)

Feast Day December 21

The Annunciation
(Continued from page 9)

favor as the God-bearer. A tender countenance recalls Mary’s young age at the Annunciation (Luke 1:38).

A vase of lilies delineates the scene recalling Mary’s virginity and spiritual purity. Writers as early as the sev- enth century likened the Virgin Mary to a white lily, with the white petals symbolizing her pure virgin body and the golden anthers the radiance of her soul. St. Bernard of Clairvaux propounded this tradition forward in the 12th cen- tury drawing a parallel between Mary’s hometown of Nazareth, signified by a flower in Hebrew, and the feast of the Annunciation on March 25, “the time of flowers.” From the 13th century onward, the lily became part of Annunciation depictions.

Hovering above the scene is a cloud of piercing rays surmounted by a dove, signifying the presence of the Holy Spirit. From Noah’s Flood to John’s Revelation, clouds have signified the glory and presence of God and signal his immediate presence in time and space. For Mary at the Annunciation, the presence of the Holy Spirit and the overshadowing of the Most High would be how Christ was conceived in her womb.
Call Kim at the Messenger for information on placing your ad in the Classified Advertisements.

(859) 392-1500

For all employees and volunteers of the Diocese of Covington who in any way provide a safe environment for children.

Step 1: Contact parish/school institution leader to review the Policies and Procedures and fill out the Application and Acceptance Forms.

Step 2: Go to www.virtus.org and click on Registration. Follow the prompts to create an account and to request a background check. Selection.com is a secure site; the background check is posted on your account and you receive a copy if you request it during the registration process. You will sign up for a virtual VIRTUS class during the registration.

Step 3: Join the virtual VIRTUS session. The day before the session, you will receive an e-mail with 4 documents attached to print. On the day of the session you will receive an invitation to join the session. No children, please.

Step 4: Your account becomes active when your background check, VIRTUS session and Acceptance Form are posted on your account. You will receive 12 bulletins per year. You will receive e-mail notices at system@pub.virtus.org unless your computer program blocks them.

Bulletin:

May bulletin: will post Sunday, May 2; due Tuesday, June 1. www.virtus.org, enter user id and password.

Virtual VIRTUS Training:

- Tuesday, May 11, 6:30–10 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 12, 6:30–10 p.m.

In-Person VIRTUS

- Wednesday, May 19, St. Henry, Elsmere, 6–9:30 p.m.

How to access Virtual training
- Go to www.virtus.org
- Enter id and password
- Click on Live Training on left column
- Click on pre-register for an upcoming session
- Choose your training

Note: If your Training Tab is missing or you cannot access your account, contact your parish, school or institution. For other difficulties, contact Marylu Steffen at (859) 392-1500 or msteffen@covdio.org.

PROTECTING GOD’S CHILDREN FOR ADULTS

Virtual Safe Environment Trainings

Newsworthy

The following are among the students that have been selected to participate in this summer’s Governor’s Scholars Program:

Bishop Brossart High School — Nicholas Csordas, Zachary Holtz;
Covington Latin School — Kevin Garuccio, Jacob Schuetter;
Holy Cross High School — Spencer Doerger, Maddux Hoffman;
Notre Dame Academy — Abigail Breeze, Katherine Crail, Caroline Kleman, Ana Kothandram, Jillian MacKnight, Samantha Mazzaro, Ella Timmerding;
St. Henry District High School — Allison Geiger, Grace Laudenslayer, Charles Barsan, George Barsan, Noah Francis, Jayden Trame;
St. Patrick School — Caleb Poczatek.

Upcoming study groups at St. Mary Parish, Alexandria:

“Diary of St. Faustina,” weekly Tuesday mornings, 10:30–11 a.m. Order the book on your own. This group may be joined any time.

“St. Joseph: St. Joseph, Our Spiritual Father,” learn more about the foster father of Jesus and the patron saint of the Universal Church. Weekly, Mondays, May 3–24, 7–8 p.m. Purchase the book “Consecration to St. Joseph” on your own. Location will be confirmed with registration. Register by e-mailing jenn@saintmaryparish.com.

Catholic Café returns to St. Anne Retreat Center, Melbourne, Monday, May 10. The Cafe will run from 9:30–11:00 a.m. and will feature talks by Msgr. William Cleves. COVID protocols preclude serving coffee or food, participants are welcome to bring their own. Masks will be required during the sessions. No charge to attend. Visit www.stanneretreatcenter.org.

St. Henry students care for our common home

St. Henry School Student Council, with the help from Gary Berning, TDG Facilities and Maintenance, was able to secure a new recycling dumpster for the school and parish. On Tuesday afternoon, Student Council unveiled the dumpster through livestream to all the students in school. Throughout the week, classrooms will save paper, cardboard, cans and bottles in their classrooms. Twice a week, Student Council will empty the recycled items into the bin. “Care for our common home” has been a popular topic during Pope Francis’ pontificate and the students at St. Henry School are following in his teachings by reducing waste on campus.

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT WANTED

The Messenger, is seeking a part-time Editorial Assistant to assist its editorial staff in creating a quality, weekly Catholic newspaper and maintaining an organized work environment. The Editorial Assistant helps update the diocesan database (Caminio) and creates the weekly mailing list for the Messenger. The position requires an understanding of or aptitude for U.S. postal bulk-mail regulations. The Editorial Assistant proofreads each edition of the Messenger, maintains the office archives, prepares invoices for payment and assists editorial staff, when needed, with writings/photography assignments. The qualified candidate will be a practicing Roman Catholic and will be comfortable with Excel and Word (or comparable) office software with a solid foundation in writing skills and the ability to meet deadlines. Anticipated start date: June 2021. Interested candidates may submit a resume, references, and writing samples to Stephen Koplay by e-mail: skoplay@covdio.org, (859) 392-1500.

GOOD JOB REMODELING LLC and Handyman

Now accepting email to large jobs. Free Estimates. Licensed and insured.

Call Steven at (859) 801-9925

PIANO FREE

Musette piano free to good home or organization. Piano is in working order and will need to be picked up. Located in California KY. If interested call Terri at (859) 496-1052.

INVESTMENT PROPERTIES


INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATE

The Diocese of Covington’s Catholic Charities is seeking a qualified, actively-practicing Roman Catholic individual for a full-time position whose primary focus will be to promote Catholic Charities and to cultivate donors. The candidate will be responsible all aspects of prospective donor relations, including administering the Donor Snap software. This position is accountable for entering and updating donor records, running reports, and maintaining consistency within the database. The ideal candidate must be able to work collaboratively as a member of the Institutional Advancement Team, and with the Executive Director, Volunteer Coordinator, and other departments as needed. Candidates must have appropriate education, training, and experience, in addition to a high attention to detail and excellent communication and people skills. To apply, or to nominate a candidate, email or fax a letter of interest, C-V or comprehensive resume with compensation history, and a minimum of five references with their contact e-mail addresses to Stephen Koplay, SPHR at skoplay@covdio.org, fax 859/392-1589.

CONTROLLER

The Diocese of Covington’s Catholic Charities office invites well-qualified, practicing Roman Catholic candidates to apply for this full-time job opportunity. The Controller assists the office’s Executive Director in managing Catholic Charities’ Finances, including its Parish Kitchen ministry. Under the direction of the Executive Director, the Controller’s primary responsibilities include: oversight of activities related to budgeting, AR, AP, and payroll; implementing and updating financial policies and procedures according to Diocesan requirements; and maintaining accurate data and producing efficient reports in line with generally accepted non-profit accounting standards. Required qualifications include at least a bachelor’s degree in Accounting or Finance, with a history of progressively-responsible applicable work experience. Interested individuals may send a cover letter and comprehensive resume, including at least five references with e-mail contacts, to Stephen Koplay, SPHR by e-mail or by fax: skoplay@covdio.org or 859-392-1589.

ST. TIMOTHY SCHOOL

Saint Timothy School has an opening for a full-time Technology Coordinator. The primary responsibilities of this position are to provide technical support for and input in the integration of technology, as well as provide information on current best practices, innovations and emerging trends. Interested candidates, please email Deb Geers to view the entire job description. dgeers@sttimothy.org

TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR

Saint Timothy School

St. Timothy School has an opening for a full-time Technology Coordinator. The primary responsibilities of this position are to provide technical support for and input in the integration of technology, as well as provide information on current best practices, innovations and emerging trends. Interested candidates, please email Deb Geers to view the entire job description. dgeers@sttimothy.org

Larry’s Tree Service

(859) 635-8528 or 240-4563

Reasonable Rates — Free Estimates

FIREWOOD — Senior Citizen Discounts Available
Newsworthly
The following are among the students that have been selected to participate in this summer’s Governor’s Scholar Program:
Bishop Brossart High School — Nicholas Cordas, Zachary Holtz;
Coogin Latin School — Kevin Garucio, Jacob Schueffer;
Holy Cross High School — Spencer Doerger, Maddux Hoffman;
Notre Dame Academy — Abigail Breeze, Katherine Crail, Caroline Kleman, Ana Kothandram, Jillian MacKnight, Samantha Mazzaro, Ella Timmending; St. Henry District High School — Allison Geiger, Grace Laudenslayer, Charles Barsan, George Barsan, Noah Francis, Jayden Trama;
St. Patrick School — Caleb Poczatek.

Upcoming study groups at St. Mary Parish, Alexandria:
“Diary of St. Faustina,” weekly Tuesday mornings, 10:30-11 a.m. Order the book on your own. This group may be joined any time.

“St. Joseph: St. Joseph, Our Spiritual Father,” learn more about the foster father of Jesus and the patron saint of the Universal Church. Weekly Mondays, May 3-24, 7-8 p.m. Purchase the book “Consecration to St. Joseph” on your own. Location will be confirmed with registration. Register by e-mailing jennis@stanmaryparish.com.

Catholic Café returns to St. Anne Retreat Center.
Melbourne, Monday, May 10: The Café will run from 9:30-11:45 a.m. and will feature talks by Msgr. William Cleves.
COVID protocols preclude serving coffee or food. Participants are welcome to bring their own. Masks will be required during the sessions. No charge to attend. Visit www.stannetretecenter.org.

Protecting God’s Children for Adults
Virtual Safe Environment Trainings
For all employees and volunteers of the Diocese of Covington who in any way provide a safe environment for children.
Step 1: Contact parish/school institution leader to review the Policies and Procedures and fill out the Application and Acceptance Forms.
Step 2: Go to www.virtus.org and click on Registration. Follow the prompts to create an account and to request a background check. Selection.com is a secure site; the background check is posted on your account and you receive a copy if you request it during the registration process. You will sign up for a virtual VIRTUS class during the registration.
Step 3: Join the virtual VIRTUS session. The day before the session, you will receive an e-mail with 4 documents attached to print. On the day of the session you will receive an invitation to join the session. No children, please.
Step 4: Your account becomes active when your background check, VIRTUS session and Acceptance Form are posted on your account. You will receive 12 bulletins per year. You will receive e-mail notices at system@pub.virtus.org unless your computer program blocks them.

Bulletins:
• May bulletin will post Sunday, May 2; due Tuesday, June 1; www.virtus.org, enter user id and password.

Virtual VIRTUS Training:
• Tuesday, May 11, 6:30-10 p.m.
• Wednesday, May 12, 6:30-10 p.m.

In-Person VIRTUS
• Wednesday, May 19, St. Henry, Elsmere, 6-9:30 p.m.

How to access Virtual training
• Go to www.virtus.org
• Enter id and password
• Click on Live Training on left column
• Click on pre-register for an upcoming session
• Choose your training
• Note: If your Training Tab is missing or you cannot access your account, contact your parish, school or institution.

For other difficulties, contact Marylu.Steffen at (859) 352-1500 or msteffen@cddio.org.

St. Vincent de Paul NKY has the following opportunities available:
• Full-time keyholders at our Cold Spring, Florence and Erlanger locations. Keyholders open or close the store and also act as a lead cashier. Because they open or close, they are responsible for ensuring opening and closing procedures are followed and generally set the direction for the rest of the retail team until a manager or assistant manager arrives.
• Part-time Store Associates at our Cold Spring, Florence and Erlanger locations. Our store employees work many roles – from cashier to merchandiser to stocker – while providing excellent customer service.
• Part-time Donation Center Associate at our Erlanger location. Our donation center associates greet our material donors, sort and organize donations to prepare for the retail environment.
• Interested candidates can apply online at https://www.svdpnky.org/employment-opportunities/.

Call Kim at the Messenger for information on placing your ad in the Classified Advertisements.
(859) 392-1500
Messenger and emptiness that is everywhere," he noted.

"because it represents a high barrier against the daily stress

ing within the sacred mysteries and from God's word.

Continuing his series of talks on prayer , the pope reflected on

this way, only in this way, can we find ourselves," he said.

Christians, meditating is a way of encountering Jesus. And in

view of life," meditation within the context of Christian

"widespread activity among people who do not have a religious

ence April 28, the pope said that although it has become a

stress relief for the body , it is a way of encountering Christ in

one's soul, Pope Francis said. During his weekly general audi-

sion for each day of the month traditionally devoted to Mary .

Pope Francis launched a monthlong, global recitation of the rosary , pleading for Mary's intercession for the end of

of Mary , and there are hopes of expanding it to

remotely by people at the National Shrine and Basilica of Our

end handgun permit requirement

Texas bishops oppose bill that would

allow people to carry handguns without a permit. Writing to

opposed to a bill pending in the state legislature that would

sized that Catholic teaching on who is morally responsible for

abortions, writing: "God loves you. We love you." He empha-

human rights ... Without protection of the right to life, no

continue praying. " Abortion is the ax laid to the roots of the tree of

Parenthood clinic four blocks away, where they planned to con-

a.m. monthly Mass for Life at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the

dance with that teaching should not receive the Eucharist." He

unborn, Communion and Catholics in public life. It emphasizes

of human life and those who do not seek to live in accor-

that "those who reject the teaching of the Church on the sanc-

 unliscensed medical practice. It calls for a moratorium on all abortions for the duration of a state of emergency declared by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Hellmann Lumber Co.
177 So. Main Street
Walton, KY
859-431-0121
www.hellmannlumber.com
Lumber – Decking – Paint – Hardware
Windows – Doors – Trim – Millwork
Delivery Available

A&S Electric Supply, Inc.
Wholesale Distributors • Lighting Showroom
#5 Coordinator Drive
Erlanger, Kentucky 41018
(859) 727-1111 FAX: (859) 727-3622
Family business supporting family values of life & marriage.
Cathedral church, and now with the statues. The Cathedral is a ment of Bishop Maes in October 2019, which saw a full Bishop Foys. “I think we have done that both with the inter- diocese together in the building of the Mother Church,” said Bishop Maes’ vision for the façade but also his vision of uniting the Diocese of Covington as a way not only to complete Bishop that represent the parishes, missions and institutions of the Deanery Pastoral Council. It was decided to depict the saints — choosing which saints would stand as witnesses to the centuries of symbols, clothing styles and hair and facial qualities — almost every parish has contributed something toward the project.”

approved it April 23. A vote in the full Senate was not sched- uled. Political observers questioned whether the bill has enough support in the Senate to pass and go to the desk of Gov. Greg Abbott, who is Catholic. Known as HB 1907, the bill elimi- nates the requirement for Texas residents to obtain a license to carry handguns as long as they are not prohibited by state or federal law from possessing a firearm. It also rescinds the requirement to receive training before carrying a handgun in public.

At rosary, pope prays resources move from military to pandemic prevention

VATICAN CITY — Under the gain of a seventh-century icon of Mary, Pope Francis launched a monthlong, global recitation of the rosary, pleading for Mary’s intercession for the end of the COVID-19 pandemic. And he prayed May 1 that Mary would move people’s consciences “so that the enormous amounts spent to increase and perfect weapons are instead used to pro- mote research to prevent similar catastrophes in the future.” The pope and about 160 young adults and families from Rome prayed in St. Peter’s Basilica and were joined remotely by people at the National Shrine and Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham in England, the first of 30 Marian shrines around the world that will lead the rosary every day through- out May. “At the beginning of the month dedicated to Our Lady, we join in prayer with all the shrines around the world, the faithful and all of good will to entrust to our holy moth- er all of humanity so that it can be freed from this pandemic,” the pope said, introducing the recitation of the glorious mysteries of the rosary. The Catholic Church promotes the Holy Evangelization coordinated the rosary marathon, the scheduling of the shrines and the assigning of a specific prayer inten- tion for each day of the month traditionally devoted to Mary.

Deaf Catholics applaud Vatican’s sign language service on YouTube channel

HOUSTON — When the Easter livestream of Pope Francis’ general audience and the Angelus was broadcast for the first time in American Sign Language on the Vatican’s YouTube channel, the deaf Catholic ministry group in Texas took partic- ular notice. Redemptorist Father Len Brenek, chaplain and program director of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston’s deaf ministry called it a “great step forward for open access to the pope’s messages. I’m glad awareness is growing. The deaf community has been waiting for this.”

Sri Lankan churches halt services as third wave of COVID-19 hits

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — Sri Lankan churches once again have halted services, church weddings and Sunday schools due to a third wave of COVID-19 infections. ucrane.com reported universities, schools and pre-schools have closed until further notice. All funerals have been limited to 10 people in attend- ance. A Catholic priest from the Archdiocese of Colombo said doctors were predicting there would soon be a shortage of oxy- gen in the country where the number of cases tripled within days. “Every family should recite the rosary to save us from this dangerous situation,” the priest said, who asked that his name not be used. “This is especially the month we recite the rosary for Mother Mary.”

Priests arrested after bishop-designate shot in South Sudan

AUSTIN, Texas — Catholic bishops said they are opposed to a bill pending in the state legislature that would allow people to carry handguns without a permit. Writing to legislators and the state’s 8 million Catholics May 3, thebish- ops said the “permitless carry” proposal “would remove impor- tant safeguards to protect human life in our communities. As pastors we are alarmed at the aggressive calls for the unfet- tered possession of weapons as a solution to public places,” the let- ter said, citing mass shootings that have occurred and the American bishops have been especially vocal in their support of the House of Representatives, and a Senate committee specifically considered to create the legislation quickly

Texas bishops oppose bill that would end handgun permit requirement

SCORPIONS — A 30-year-old southern German heavy metal band, the Scorpions, have announced that they will tour North America in 2023. The announcement follows the release of their latest album, entitled “The Velocity of Night.” The tour will begin in February and conclude in August, with stops in major cities across the continent. The band’s lead vocalist, Klaus Meine, said in a statement: “We’re excited to kick off this new chapter of our career and to bring the Scorpions to fans across the US and Canada.” The band has been active since the late 1960s and has released over 20 studio albums, earning critical acclaim and commercial success. Their hit songs include “Rock You Like A Hurricane,” “Still Loving You,” and “frared Eyes.” The Scorpions have sold over 100 million records worldwide, cementing their status as one of the most influential bands in the genre.